

# Andrew Rubino's Story

*On the morning of Saturday, February 3, 2001, Mary and I climbed into the car with our three children for a short ride to the hospital. Mary was 9 months pregnant. We were headed to the hospital a little unexpectedly but were excited nonetheless. That excitement, however, ended quickly. Mary and my unborn son, Vincent, were pronounced dead 45 minutes later. Tests revealed that Mary had contracted a Type A Strep infection from a minor cut on her finger. After I settled down, I had to tell my children that their mother and brother had died. Without a doubt, that is the hardest thing I have ever had to do in my life. We all cried for what seemed to be hours. After watching my younger sister struggle to cope with my parents' deaths, I knew I needed help for Anthony (eight years old), Salvatore (six) and Gabrielle (four).*

*Through the Employee Assistance Program at work, the Cove came to my attention. While neighbors, friends, co-workers provided us with tremendous support, the kids needed something that none of us could give: a way to express their thoughts and feelings, and most importantly, the understanding that they were not alone or "different" because they lost their mother.*

*Apprehensive at first, the kids agreed to go. That first ride to the West Hartford Cove got a little anxious. We talked on the ride home. Their impressions ranged from "I liked it" to "I don't know". Eventually, Sal asked if we were going back. I asked if he wanted to, and he said "yes." That was all I needed to hear. I worried about Sal the most. He was the most quiet, the most gentle, the most introspective, and the one closest to his mom.*

*As months went by, the various activities (drawing pictures, planting flowers, making lists and playing games) gave us more opportunities to talk. The communication that I desperately needed was there. The kids were able to talk about their mom, and that made them feel better.*

*One night, Sal asked, "Were you still a kid when your dad died?" When I said yes, he said, "Well, you are okay," and walked away. At that moment, I knew that we were all going to be okay.*

*The changes in our lives are not over. In November, I asked a wonderful woman, Jennifer, to marry me. Each of the kids will be part of our wedding and will join us for part of our honeymoon. They tell Jennifer stories about Mary, and she asks questions. While not always easy, we all know how important it is to talk about Mary. The Cove truly helped us to understand the importance of communicating, but more importantly, it provided us with the ways to do it.*



*Providing Hope and Healing  
for Grieving Children*

For families like the Rubinos who experience the grief and heartache of coping with the death of a significant person in their lives, The Cove provides a safe haven of understanding, hope, and support.

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